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Serial No. 10/840,184

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Remarks/Arguments

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Claims 1 to 8 have been amended to delete reference indicia, in accordance with US practice, and to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1 and 8 to 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US patent 6,795,053 to Funamoto et al. This patent relates to an image display device in which adjustment of the intensity of a light source is made in accordance with an input video signal. Funamoto et al. calculates a maximum brightness, a minimum brightness, and an average brightness. The reference then calculates a gain and DC offset of the input signal in order to obtain maximum dynamic range. Nowhere does the reference show or suggest the steps of:

"adjusting the luminance of the light produced by the source to the luminance value corresponding to the peak grey level of the image after compression, and

multiplying the video signal delivered to the light valve by an expansion factor D equal to the ratio of the peak grey level of the image before compression to the peak grey level of the image after compression",

as specifically set forth in Claim 1. Rather, the reference applies a DC offset to the input video signal in order to place the variation of brightness within the range of a liquid crystal panel. The reference does not apply a compression factor to grey levels of image video signal that are higher than a threshold value.

Similarly nowhere does Funamoto et al show or suggest:

"means for applying a compression factor C to the grey levels of the image video signal that are higher than a first threshold value, the said first threshold value being lower than the peak grey level value of the image video signal,

means for adjusting the luminance of the light produced by the light source to the luminance value corresponding to the peak grey level of the image after compression, and

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means for multiplying the video signal delivered to the light valve by an expansion factor D equal to the ratio of the peak grey level of the image before compression to the peak grey level of the image after compression",

as specifically recited in Claim 8. It is therefore clear that Funamoto et al does not affect the patentability of Claims 1 and 8.

US patent publication 2003/0110384 to Carro relates to a method and apparatus for hyperlinking graphic objects. Nowhere does the reference show or suggest the application of a compression factor to grey levels of an image video signal that are higher than a threshold value. It is therefore clear that even if the structure of Carro were to be incorporated into the structure of Funamoto et al, the instant invention would not be obtained.

The Examiner has also cited Admitted Prior Art (APA) as set forth on page 2 of the instant specification. Nowhere does the background portion of the specification disclose either:

"adjusting the luminance of the light produced by the source to the luminance value corresponding to the peak grey level of the image after compression, and

multiplying the video signal delivered to the light valve by an expansion factor D equal to the ratio of the peak grade level of the image before compression to the peak grey level of the image after compression",

as specifically set forth in Claim 1, or:

"means for applying a compression factor C to the grey levels of the image video signal that are higher than a first threshold value, the said first threshold value being lower than the peak grey level value of the image video signal,

means for adjusting the luminance of the light produced by the light source to the luminance value corresponding to the peak grey level of the image after compression, and

means for multiplying the video signal delivered to the light valve by an expansion factor D equal to the ratio of the peak grey level of the image before compression to the peak grey level of the image after compression",

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as specifically recited in Claim 8. It is therefore clear that even if the disclosures of Funamoto et al, Carro and APA were to be combined, the patentability of Claims 1 and 8 would not be affected.

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Claims 2 to 7 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these sub-claims are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

Similarly Claims 9 and 10 are dependent from Claim 8 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these sub-claims are patentable as their parent Claim 8.

The Applicants note, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3 to 6. The Applicants submit that the other claims are patentable as well.

The Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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